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PROCEEDINGS AND PAPERS.

GENERAL MEETING, held in the Assembly Rooms, Kilkenny, on Wednesday, September 1, 1858.

THE VERY REV. THE DEAN OF OSSORY, President of the Society, in the Chair.

The following new Members were elected :—

The Marchioness of Ely, Ely Lodge, Enniskillen ; and John Gethin, Esq., J. P., Ballindoon House, Riverstown, Co. Sligo : proposed by the Rev. G. H. Reade.

Edward Blackburn, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 34, Merrion-square, South, Dublin ; Charles H. Foote, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 14, Upper Fitzwilliam-street, Dublin ; Henry Devitt, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 14, Hardwicke-street, Dublin ; and Charles H. Tandy, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, 20, Upper Pembroke-street, Dublin : proposed by Matthew O'Donnell, Esq., Barrister-at-Law.

Pierse Fitzgerald, Esq., Solicitor, South Mall, Cork : proposed by John Windele, Esq.

W. D. Hemphill, Esq., M. D., Clonmel : proposed by the Rev. James Graves.

Rev. Steven O'Halloran, Marino Cottage, Bantry, Co. Cork : proposed by the Rev. Edward Bell.

Edward Grant, Esq., Trever Hill, Newry : proposed by Richard Linn, Esq.

John Greaves, Esq., 5, Morrison's-quay, Cork ; John Hill, Esq., C. E., County Surveyor, Tullamore ; and Richard A. Gray, Esq., C. E., County Surveyor, Skerries, Co. Dublin : proposed by W. Burgess, Esq.

Professor Simpson, M. D., F. S. A., Scot., Queen's-street, Edinburgh ; and George Atkinson, Esq., 31, Upper Ebury-street, Pimlico, London : proposed by Richard R. Brash, Esq.

Joseph N. Higgins, Esq., M. R. I. A., Barrister-at-Law, Clonmel, and Lincoln's Inn, London : proposed by N. Kearney, Esq.

The Rev. James Graves said that he need not remind the Members present that since their last Meeting they had to deplore the death of a distinguished Member and office-bearer of the Society,—Dr. Cane,—one of those who were instrumental in the original formation of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society, and had filled the office of Treasurer since the year 1849, having been elected at the first General Meeting of the Members. Dr. Cane had adopted the pursuit of archaeology with that enlarged and liberal view of the subject which every educated mind must appreciate. His was not the petty *dilettanteism* that collected curiosities simply because they were old or scarce—he cared not for them if they were not eloquent of the past—and he ever sought to advance the science as one calculated to give us insight into the olden time, and fill up the faint outlines of history. They all knew and regretted him as a fellow-citizen, and some of them, amongst whom he was fain to name himself, as a friend; and he (Mr. Graves) thought they should express their sorrow for his untimely decease by a formal Resolution.

The Meeting expressed an unanimous approval of the suggestion of Mr. Graves, and all concurred in regret for the occasion which required it. The following Resolution was then moved by the Rev. Dr. Browne, seconded by Mr. P. Aylward, and adopted:—

“ That this Meeting wishes unanimously to express its sense of the great loss which the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society has sustained by the untimely and lamented decease of Robert Cane, Esq., M. D., F. R. C. S. I., who, as one of its Original Members, and, as its Treasurer, ably aided in the formation, and zealously co-operated in the working of the Association since its formation in the year 1849.”

The Honorary Secretary said that he regretted to be obliged to lay before the Meeting a matter in some degree personal to himself, although it arose from his having merely carried out the views of a former Meeting. It was in the recollection of the Members that he had been intrusted to take whatever steps might be deemed proper to effect in the way of reparation for Dunbrody Abbey, in the county of Wexford, what had been already done for Jerpoint, in this county; and having been met apparently in a friendly spirit by the Agent of the noble proprietor of Dunbrody, he had visited the Abbey in company with Mr. Knox, and drawn up a specification of those repairs which were considered most necessary and judicious. As the first correspondence which took place between Mr. Knox and himself had already been published,¹ Mr. Graves would not take up the time of the Meeting further than to say that Mr. Knox had offered to place in his hands £100 to be laid out on the Abbey, provided an antique, in possession of Captain Alcock, of Wilton, and which had been found in the Abbey, was handed over to Lord Tem-

¹ See p. 4, *supra*.

plemore. Mr. Alcock had consented at once to comply with the condition, and had placed the antique in Mr. Graves's hands for that purpose; but Mr. Knox refused to fulfil his promise. It was then intimated to him that the antique would remain in the hands of the Honorary Secretary for some time, and that if the necessary repairs were effected by Lord Templemore within a given time, the antique would be handed over to his Lordship. So matters remained from Christmas, 1856, until some time previous to the last July Meeting, when, finding that Mr. Knox had not complied with the conditions, Mr. Graves had returned the antique to Captain Alcock, and at the last Meeting he made a statement to that effect. This statement had been copied into the "Wexford Independent" newspaper, and it produced the following very insulting letter from Lord Templemore's Agent:—

" TO THE EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT.

" *Glendine, Arthurstown, July 16, 1858.*

" DEAR SIR,—Having seen in your paper of the 14th that the Rev. James Graves has again taken the liberty of bringing my name before the public, and *falsely* representing to the Archaeological Society the circumstances connected with the *spurious* seal Mr. Alcock has of Dunbrody Abbey, may I request that you will state, for the information of those *really* anxious about the Abbey, that I have, by the direction of Lord Templemore, employed an architect (not Mr. Graves's man), who made part last year, and is finishing this, the necessary repairs, to keep the ruin from further decay. I only hope that all the statements made to the Society by his Reverence are not as unfounded as the one of Dunbrody Abbey. A place for this in your widely circulated paper will oblige

" Yours truly,

" M. W. KNOX."

To this letter, Mr. Graves, though unwilling to enter into a personal contest with any one, had felt constrained to reply in such terms as he considered the circumstances required; and he now regretted to report, that although Mr. Knox was certainly engaged in carrying on works at Dunbrody Abbey, several of his operations were calculated highly to deface the beauty of what remained of the structure, whilst doing but little for the judicious preservation of the building.

Several of the Members present having expressed a wish to be informed of the nature of Mr. Graves's reply to the very insulting and uncalled-for letter of Lord Templemore's Agent, the reply of the Rev. gentleman was read, as follows:—

" TO THE EDITOR OF THE INDEPENDENT.

" *Kilkenny, July 30, 1858.*

" SIR,—My attention has been directed to a letter signed 'M. W. Knox,' in the 'Independent' of the 21st inst. Were I to consult my own feelings, I should not notice it; but as Honorary Secretary of the

Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society—a Society which reckons amongst its Members so much of the rank and worth of Wexford, who are thus attacked through me,—I think it desirable to ask room in your columns for a few words in reply.

" I plead guilty to the fact of having made every exertion in my power (and be it remembered, in the first instance, at Mr. Knox's request) to preserve from impending ruin one of the greatest architectural ornaments of the county of Wexford; but I am totally unconscious of having done anything to deserve the gross imputations cast upon me (not now for the first time) by Mr. Knox. A charge of falsehood may be a very convenient mode of reply to a statement that cannot be refuted, but it is a mode not often used, as, irrespective of those gentlemanly feelings which forbid its undeserved application, it is apt to provoke a retort of the nature known to logicians as the *argumentum ad baculum*. However, when Mr. Knox was guilty of the cowardly act of taxing a *clergymen* with '*falsely*' [the emphasis is his] representing to the Archæological Society the circumstances connected with the *spurious* seal Mr. Alcock has of Dunbrody Abbey,' he knew he was perfectly safe from the unpleasant consequences I have alluded to. As to the good taste evinced by this mode of procedure, I leave your readers to form their own judgment, and consider myself perfectly safe in the hands of the *gentlemen* of Wexford.

" The statement I made to the July Meeting of the Society was as follows:—

" ' The Honorary Secretary said that, having communicated to Captain Alcock, of Wilton, the failure of Lord Templemore's Agent, Mr. Knox, to carry out his engagement relative to the repair of Dunbrody Abbey, he had been directed by Captain Alcock to send back to him the ancient seal connected with Dunbrody, which Mr. Knox had asked for as an equivalent for Lord Templemore's proposed expenditure, and which Captain Alcock had at once, in the most liberal manner, consented to give. Mr. Alcock said, "I am sorry that Lord Templemore delays the required repairs to those beautiful ruins."'

" Now, Mr. Knox knows well that nothing was done to *preserve* the Abbey up to the day when the foregoing paragraph appeared in your columns. Deep trenches, as if for the foundation of walls, had, indeed, been dug, last year, between the piers of the only remaining row of nave arches, thus rendering them, if anything, more insecure; but can Mr. Knox affirm that a single mason was employed, this season, at the so-called repairs until my statement was made public? I have little doubt, however, that the noble owner of the Abbey was under the impression that his wishes for its preservation had been carried out; and I feel confident that Mr. Knox is *now* but acting under *reiterated orders*, when, at the eleventh hour, he has commenced the repairs. That the latter are *not* carried out 'by Mr. Graves's man' is pretty evident from the injudicious nature of the works in course of execution; and I am sure Lord Templemore will be grieved to hear that the only row of the arches—the strongest and more secure portion of the ruins—have been *built up!*! thus reducing to the appearance of a *dead wall* the most beautiful and striking feature of the Abbey, and at the same time causing a large and needless outlay of money.

" Having at no very distant period had the misfortune to be involved in a correspondence with Mr. Knox, I then laid before the Wexford public

the circumstances relative to the highly curious and authentic antique, which Mr. Knox now terms Mr. Alcock's 'spurious seal.' I shall not, therefore, now occupy your space further than to say, that if Mr. Knox understands the English language—and, perhaps, ignorance of it is the most charitable explanation that can be given to his words—he is well aware that this antique is *not* 'spurious;' and, furthermore, it may refresh his memory to be reminded, that when he first proposed that I should ask it from Captain Alcock, I made him perfectly aware of its nature, in the presence of a magistrate of the county of Wexford, who is ready to vouch the fact. But perhaps Mr. Knox may not be aware that I have since learned from Captain Alcock that he had previously, but in vain, endeavoured to procure this 'spurious seal' from its owner.¹ I should be averse, were not Mr. Knox the person, to conclude that, when he offered to place in my hands £100, to be laid out on the Abbey, on the condition of my being able to procure the antique for Lord Templemore, he felt sure that I should never be in a position to claim the fulfilment of his promise.

"I have now done with Mr. Knox; he may parade his want of good taste before the public, if he lists, but I shall not again notice his statements. I cannot, however, avoid expressing a wish, I believe a very prevalent one, that Lord Templemore were represented on his Wexford estates by some one who could feel an interest in the preservation of such a noble architectural remain as that of Dunbrody Abbey, and who, instead of insulting, would co-operate with those who are anxious for its preservation.

"I am, &c.,

"JAMES GRAVES, A. B.,

"*Hon. Sec. of the Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archaeological Society.*"

The following Resolution was then proposed, and unanimously adopted :—

"Resolved,—That this Meeting feels called on to express its regret that the promised repairs at Dunbrody Abbey have not been carried out in the manner which was expected; and that we fully approve of the course pursued by the Honorary Secretary of this Society, the Rev. James Graves."

The following presentations were received, and thanks voted to the donors :—

By J. Y. Akerman, Esq.: "A Memorial by *William Hamill*, Gent., Agent and Trustee for the Officers and Soldiers of the two late Garrisons of *London-Derry* and *Enniskilling* in *Ireland*, their Relicts and Representatives, Dedicated to his Principals." London : 1714.

By Mr. M. Holohan: Addison's "Dialogues upon the Usefulness of Ancient Medals."

¹ The words of Captain Alcock's letter, extracted from the original now before me, are as follows:—"Mr. Knox asked me some time ago for the seal I had in my possession, found in the ruins of Dunbrody Abbey. I

told him at the time he asked for it (for Lord Templemore) that I positively refused to give up the seal; and you are at perfect liberty to tell him of these facts, if he has forgotten them."

By the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland: their "Journal," No. 57.

By the Publisher: "The Gentleman's Magazine" for August, 1858.

By the Cambrian Institute: their "Journal," Second Series, No. 2.

By Robert Mac Adam, Esq.: "The Ulster Journal of Archæology," No. 23.

By the Author: "Collectanea Antiqua," in the possession of Hodder M. Westropp, Esq., Rookhurst, Cork.

By the Architectural and Archæological Society for the county of Buckingham: "Records of Buckinghamshire," No. 8.

By Edward Fitzgerald, Esq., Architect: "Vestiges and Relics of Remarkable Irishmen in the Vicinity of Youghal, of the Primeval or Pagan Period."

By the Publisher: "The Builder," Nos. 805–808, both inclusive.

Mr. Samuel Cooke reported the discovery, some time since, by a poor man, in a field near Thurles, of the end of a gold torque, weighing 93 grains apothecaries' weight.

Mr. J. Richardson Smith sent an account of the discovery, in Argyleshire, at a farm called Carn Baan, near the Crinan Canal, of twenty-eight pieces of flint, about three inches in diameter, and the thickness of a penny, with the rough edge of the flint outside, and no mark of a blow apparent. They were found four peats deep in a bog or moss, beneath the root of a fossil oak-tree, and near them two stone celts.

Mr. Smith also described an examination made by him of a tumulus surrounded at its base by a circle of rough stones, which he discovered in the same locality. It proved to be a pit regularly built round, and diminishing from 15 feet diameter to 2 feet at a depth of five feet; the bottom was flagged with oblong stones going across its entire breadth, and the cavity was filled with calcined earth and charcoal, in which he discovered one or two fragments of pottery. Mr. Smith said the entire remain was similar to many similar pits discovered by him on Ballon Hill, in the county of Carlow, when, in 1853–54, he explored the extensive Pagan cemetery there.¹

Mr. W. T. Jones, Cork, sent for exhibition the upper half of a figure, apparently dressed in the loose surcoat of the thirteenth century, and carrying a shield on the left arm, showing indistinct traces of armorial bearings. The eyes and portions of the drapery were in blue enamel, and there were traces of gilding,—the material of the figure being copper. The fragment was diminutive, being $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, and was pierced with two holes, as if for the purpose of fastening it to a shrine. The antique was found in the ruins of Moran Abbey, four miles from Mallow, on the road to Cork.

¹ See "Transactions," vol. ii. p. 295.

Mr. J. G. Robertson exhibited a beautiful specimen of a flint arrow-head, which was thought to be unique as to shape.

The Secretary then read a copy of an inscription from the old church of Coolcraheen, near Foulksrath, contributed by Mr. W. B. Wright. It was in Latin elegiac verse, and had formed a portion of a monument to the Purcell family, the ancient proprietors of Foulksrath Castle. The slab on which it was carved had been broken into three pieces, the portions of the inscription on two of which had been previously placed on record¹ in the Society's Journal by Mr. Wright, but he had since found the centre piece, then wanting, which completed the lines and supplied the date.

The perfect inscription was as follows :—

“ O Homines Homines Vid mvltos quæritis agros
 Loca qvibus septem svecfecit vrna pedes
 Maior nostra solo quovis mēt scādit Olympvm
 Flла tamen corpvs continet vrna mev
 Dante deo fines mea mēs sveremiet vræ
 Altior est hvjvs sors mea sorte loci
 Porci si generis cvr svnt insignia nostri
 Scire viator aves gallica scripta lege.
 1629.”

Mr. W. T. Jones communicated the fact that several of the beads of which he had forwarded specimens to the May Meeting had since been taken from the remains of an ancient wreck of a vessel in Dunworley Bay, embedded along with coins of William and Mary, in sand and clay ; thus marking their date to a certain extent.

Mr. Daniel O'Byrne sent the following notice of a discovery near Timahoe :—

“ About fourteen days now past, Mr. Samuel Rathwell, now residing in Timahoe, being employed as steward by Mr. Doyne, over workmen labouring on Derryforn Bog, about two miles south-east from Abbeyleix, discovered two cows' horns, each measuring about six inches long. Mr. Rathwell is a very intelligent man, and has assured me that from the unusual marks on the horns, the age of the animal that once bore them could not have been less than on the verge of twenty years. They rested about eleven feet under the surface of the bog.

“ In the place where Mr. Rathwell found the horns he discovered a crib made of small stakes and small switches, and in the crib rested an egg equally as black as the bog-stuff or turf. He even perceived the remains of straw under the egg, and as black as the egg.

“ In another part of the bog, not more than eight feet from surface to bottom, Mr. Rathwell discovered, three feet below the surface, the remains of a wooden enclosure. The paling, if I may call it by that name, was thus XXXXXXX formed, and fully showed that a saw was not made use

¹ See “Transactions,” vol. iii. p. 214.

of when the paling was erected. It gives evident marks that an axe was used in forming the rails, and that the instrument was very sharp, as the cuts are very long and smooth. The enclosing bars or stakes are about five feet high, and each about one foot sunk in the stratum lying under the bog. For what purpose this enclosure was made, is a matter of conjecture, and may well occupy, for some moments, the inquiries of the learned and the curious.

"These remains of an enclosure were not situated near the spot where the horns and egg have been found. A few years ago a firkin of bog-butter, and also a lump of the same, were found in this bog."

The following Papers were then submitted to the Meeting.

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF FLORENCE MAC CARTHY.

BY DANIEL MAC CARTHY (GLAS), ESQ.

(*Continued from p. 148.*)

ON the 1st of the following June an inquisition was held at Cork, in the presence of Sir William Drury and others, from which we learn the extent of his private possessions, and the fact that Florence was at the time but fifteen years of age.

(Lambeth MS., vol. 613, page 61.)

1576. *June 1st. An Inquisition taken upon the Death of SIR DONOGH MAC CARTY in Anno 19 Eliz.*

"Inquisitio capta apud civitatem Cork in le Guildhall ejusdem civitatis in com' Corke, die Veneris pxime post festū Pentecostes viz. primo die mensis Junii anno Regni Regine nře invict' Elizabeth decimo nono, corā Willmō Drury milit' Dño presidente totius provinciæ Momoniæ, et uno de Privato concilio dict' Dñæ Reginæ in regno suo Hiberniæ, et sociis suis commissionariis prædict' Dñæ Regine p' totam provinciam pdictam, tam infra libertates quā extra, ad inquirend' de omnibus et singulis ter' tene-ment' reddit' proficuis cōmoditatibus emolumentis wardiis marritagiis releviis escaetis juribus forisfacturis et aliis hereditamentis quibus-cumque eidem Dñæ Reginæ, vel aliquibus progenitorum suorum ratione concessions donationis attinctur' forisfactur', actūs parlamenti, es-caeti mortis alicujus personæ vel aliter qualitercumque spectantibus, vel pertinent', et ad alia faciend' et inquirend' prout in lteris patentibus dictæ Dñæ Reginæ inde eis confecte gerentes dat' apud Wexford nono die Aprilis año Regni pdictæ Dñæ Reginæ decimo nono magis liquett per sacra-mentum juratorum subscriptorum viz.

"David Martell de Martellston Gen. Joh' Barry de Donboige Gen. Willmō Mallefunte de Courteston Gen. David M'Shane de Midestowne Gen. Jacobi Hoare de Money Gen. Florentii OMahowny de OMahownescastle Gen. Johⁿs Skiddie de Frissellscastle Gen. Donaldi M'Owen de Drisshane